

(23) Hael Basheer Atari and Hanaa Al Moghrabi.

(24) Fahim N. Mahmoud, Firnal Mahmoud, Alla Mahmoud, and Ahmad Mahmoud.

(25) Tareq A. Attari.

(26) Azmi A. Mukahal, Wafa Mukahal, Yasmin A. Mukahal, and Ahmad A. Mukahal.

(27) Nabil Ishaq El-Hawwash, Amal Nabil El Hawwash, and Ishaq Nabil El-Hawwash.

(28) Samir Ghalayini, Ismat F. Abujaber, and Wasef Ghalayini.

(29) Iman Mallah, Rana Mallah, and Mohammed Mallah.

(30) Mohsen Mahmoud and Alia Mahmoud.

(31) Nijad Abdelrahman, Najwa Yousef Abdelrahman, and Faisal Abdelrahman.

(32) Nezam Mahdawi, Sohad Mahdawi, and Bassam Mahdawi.

(33) Khalid S. Mahmoud and Fawziah Mahmoud.

(34) Wael I. Saymeh, Zatelhimma N. Al Sahafie, Duaa W. Saymeh, and Ahmad W. Saymeh.

(35) Ahmed Mohammed Jawdat Anis Naji.

(36) Sesinando P. Suaverdez, Cynthia Paguio Suaverdez, Maria Cristina Sylvia P. Suaverdez, and Sesinando Paguio Suaverdez II.

(37) Thabet Said, Hanan Said, and Yasmin Said.

(38) Hani Salem, Manal Salem, Tasnim Salem, and Suleiman Salem.

(39) Ihsan Mohammed Adwan, Hanan Mohammed Adwan, Maha Adwan, Nada M. Adwan, Reem Adwan, and Lina A. Adwan.

(40) Ziyad Al Ajjoury and Dima Al Ajjoury.

(41) Essam K. Taha.

(42) Salwa S. Beshay, Alexan L. Basta, Rehan Basta, and Sherif Basta.

(43) Latifa Hussin, Sameer Hussin, Anas Hussin, Ahmed Hussin, Ayman Hussin, and Assma Hussin.

(44) Fadia H. Shaath, Bader Abdul Azium Shaath, Dalia B. Shaath, Abdul Azim Bader Shaath, Farah Bader Shaath, and Rawan Bader Shaath.

(45) Bassam Barqawi and Amal Barqawi.

(46) Nabil Abdel Raoof Maswadeh.

(47) Nizam I. Wattar and Mohamed Ihssan Wattar.

(48) Wail F. Shbib and Ektimal Shbib.

(49) Reem Rushdi Salman and Rasha Talat Salman.

(50) Khalil A. Awadalla and Eman K. Awadalla.

(51) Nabil A. Alyadak, Majeda Sheta, Iman Alyadak, and Wafa Alyadak.

(52) Mohammed A. Ariqat, Hitaf M. Ariqat, Ruba Ariqat, Renia Ariqat, and Reham Ariqat.

(53) Hazem A. Al-Masri and Maha A. Al-Masri.

(54) Tawfiq M. Al-Taher and Rola T. Al-Taher.

(55) Nadeem Mirza.

(c) **WAIVER OF CERTAIN GROUNDS FOR INADMISSIBILITY.**—The provisions of paragraphs (4), (5), and (7)(A) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall not apply to adjustment of status under this Act.

(d) **OFFSET IN NUMBER OF VISAS AVAILABLE.**—Upon each granting to an alien of the status of having been lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this section, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(e) **DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.**—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of an individual referred to in subsection (b) shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3646, a bill I introduced as a Private Relief Bill on behalf of 54 families and individuals seeking permanent resident status in the United States. These families, known as Persian Gulf Evacuees, have lived and worked in this country since being evacuated out of Kuwait, at the behest of the United States government, just prior to U.S. Military Intervention in the Iraqi invasion of that country.

More than 2,000 individuals, many of whom have U.S. citizen children, by order of then President George Bush, were evacuated to keep them out of harms way when the United States intervened militarily in Kuwait to drive out Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction.

Many of the evacuees, prior to evacuation, had provided a safe-haven for Americans caught unaware when Iraq invaded Kuwait, and hid them in their homes against Iraqi retaliation.

Once here, the majority of the 2,000 evacuees adjusted their own status, often through asylum procedures. These 54 families remained in limbo, facing deportation and loss of work permits in the United States.

The Persian Gulf Evacuees, better known as PGE's, are well educated, mostly professional individuals perfectly capable of working and supporting themselves here in the U.S. without becoming wards of any State in which they have settled. They are English-speaking, and this is especially true of their U.S. Citizen children.

These families were extensively investigated by both the INS and the FBI, and have been cleared of any wrong-doing since entering the United States, and none has been found to be members of any subversive groups.

I am deeply pleased to have been their champion since the 103rd Congress.

I take this opportunity to extend my most profound thanks and appreciation to my friend, Immigration Subcommittee Chairman LAMAR SMITH. I am grateful for his good counsel and his able guidance over these past few years as we worked to bring this bill or similar legislation to enactment. My thanks go also to his capable staff for their long-term, hard work on behalf of the Persian Gulf Evacuees.

I also extend my sincere thanks to Judiciary Committee Chairman HENRY HYDE, my good friend and a distinguished leader on immigration matters in the House, for his action to report H.R. 3646 favorably from his Committee, paving the way for passage of this vitally important legislation.

I salute the Persian Gulf Evacuees, for their patience throughout the years it has taken to bring this bill to enactment. The nationwide teamwork among the PGE's worked remarkably well. The PGE Team Leaders not only keep my office advised of any problems they faced, while awaiting legal permanent status in their adopted country, such as work permits so that they could remain self-sufficient and not in need of public assistance, but helped each family keep track of the legislative process.

They did an outstanding job, and I congratulate them not only for all their work, but as mentioned above, for their excellent patience throughout.

And finally, I wish to thank Dr. Hala Maksoud, of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), and her staff, for bringing this matter to my attention during the 103rd Congress, and for their solid support for the legislation throughout the years of waiting.

I believe our action today makes this new, challenging century in America one that will be remembered by these 54 families for its compassionate understanding, and is an acknowledgment of the duty we have to discharge our responsibility toward those who come to America at the behest of our own Government.

We have, with the able assistance of Subcommittee Chairman LAMAR SMITH and his fine staff, responded to their economic needs by ensuring the continual approval of work permits, and by keeping them free of INS deportation actions until our action today could be brought to fruition.

It was not an easy task, and knowing this makes us even more grateful for the assistance we have received.

I am confident that the PGE's will continue, as they have during the 10 year period they have been in this country, to work hard, to remain good citizens, and to make important contributions to the American socio-economic structure as legal, permanent residents of this great country.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AKAL SECURITY, INCORPORATED

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3363) for the relief of Akal Security, Incorporated.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 3363

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAYMENT FOR SERVICES PERFORMED BUT NOT PAID.

Notwithstanding section 2465 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to Akal Security, Incorporated, a New Mexico corporation incorporated in New Mexico, \$10,208.74 for security guard services rendered in 1991 to the United States Army Reserve Personnel Center located at 9700 Page Boulevard in St. Louis, Missouri.

SEC. 2. EXTINGUISHMENT OF LIABILITY.

Notwithstanding section 2465 of title 10, United States Code, any liability of Akal Security, Incorporated, to the United States for repayment of \$57,771.29 for the services described in section 1 is hereby extinguished.

SEC. 3. FULL SATISFACTION.

The relief under sections 1 and 2 shall, when accepted by or on behalf of Akal Security, Incorporated, be in full satisfaction of all claims of or on behalf of Akal Security, Incorporated, against the United States or against any officer, employee, or agent of the United States acting within the scope of

employment or agency, for payment for the services described in section 1.

SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEY FEES.

It shall be unlawful for an amount exceeding 10 percent of the amount paid pursuant to section 1 to be paid to, or received by, any agent or attorney for any service rendered in connection with the claim described in such section. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of an infraction, and shall be subject to a fine in the amount provided in title 18, United States Code.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3646 and H.R. 3363, the bills just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1654, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2000, 2001, AND 2002

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1654) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will appoint conferees later today.

OPPOSITION TO INTERNET ACCESS FEES

(Mr. KUYKENDALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on important legislation that will affect the millions of Americans who use the Internet. Specifically we will take action to prevent the FCC from imposing Internet access charges.

In just a few short years, the Nation has evolved into a digital one. Most of us have surfed the Web and have cor-

responded with friends and loved ones with e-mail. It will continue to develop but only if we prevent commercial blocks like taxes and access charges.

I have had more mail from constituents on this one issue than any other issue since I have been in Congress. To my constituents, let me say simply that I have heard that message. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Congress today will recognize the Internet's importance and say no to access fees. We must keep the Internet tax-free. It is the right thing to do.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell about Yona Gelernter, whose three children were abducted to Israel by their mother, Anat Gelernter. On April 17, 1995, Chaya, Menachem and Chava were taken from their Brooklyn, New York home to Israel.

As the parents were still married, Yona applied in the New York courts for emergency custody of his children. Additionally, because Israel is a signatory to the Hague Convention, he was able to apply for the return of his three children under the agreement. He filed his Hague petition in October of 1997 and on August 13, 1998, the Israeli courts ordered the immediate return of Chaya, Menachem and Chava to their father in the United States. However, when the mother learned that she had lost her case, she went into hiding with the three children. Yona has since hired private investigators in Israel to attempt to locate his wife and three children. He has not seen them since their abduction.

Mr. Speaker, there are 10,000 American children out there whose stories are similar, 10,000 American children and their parents who experience the same kind of pain and devastation every day of their separation. This Congress must take action to solve this problem and help reunite parents with their children. Mr. Speaker, we must bring our children home.

AUTISM

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, when you look at these posters, you see beautiful, happy children. But what you do not know is that Bonnie and Willis Flick are beautiful, happy children with autism. Autism is a neurological disorder that impacts half a million people in America. This disorder makes it hard for them to communicate with others and to relate to the outside world. Autistic children have difficulties in communications, in

social interactions and even in play activities. I am a very close friend of Bonnie and Willis Flick's parents and I have seen the distress and the frustration that dealing with autism may impose on families.

Approximately 50 percent of Florida's families with autism reside within my community of south Florida and Bonnie and Willis Flick are just two. But the Flicks are among the fortunate few who can afford intervention and counseling to help them cope with autism, because when one child suffers with autism, indeed the entire family is impacted.

Last week, the House passed the Children's Health Act to fight against autism by establishing centers to develop treatment and prevention methods. Thousands of children like Bonnie and Willis Flick will benefit from this research because for families living with autism, until we find a cure, research is what keeps our hopes alive.

LIES, COVER-UPS AND MURDER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Reports show that the FBI lied about Waco. The FBI denied using tear gas until a memo was found and they were forced to admit it. The FBI then confiscated all autopsy reports of victims at Waco and now claims they lost it. In addition, the FBI lied about Ruby Ridge, Idaho, forcing Congress to give \$5 million to the Weaver family to cover up their lies. Lies, cover-ups, murder, over 90 Americans killed at Waco and Ruby Ridge and not one single charge.

Beam me up. The Congress of the United States is allowing a police state to exist in our own country. Shame, Congress. Lies, murder, Waco, Ruby Ridge, Boston. You name the cities. I yield back the crimes and cover-ups of the Gestapo state that has developed in America at the United States Justice Department.

INCOMPETENCE CAN CAUSE DEVASTATION

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, one of the worst wildfires in history rages continually out of control in New Mexico today and so far has burned over 10,000 acres of land in that State. And it is the National Park Service who is to blame. Thousands of residents have been evicted, hundreds of homes have been destroyed or damaged and the lives of these families threatened. Yet all of this devastation and upheaval could have been prevented if the National Park Service had not blatantly ignored key information.